United States Bankruptcy Court Southern District of Texas

#### **ENTERED**

January 20, 2023 Nathan Ochsner, Clerk

## IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS HOUSTON DIVISION

In re	)
ALEXANDER E. JONES	) CASE NO. 22-33553
DEBTOR.	) (CHAPTER 11)
	) ) JUDGE CHRISTOPHER M. LOPEZ

# ORDER GRANTING APPLICATION FOR ENTRY OF AN ORDER AUTHORIZING THE RETENTION AND EMPLOYMENT OF JORDAN & ORTIZ, P.C. AS DEBTOR CO-COUNSEL EFFECTIVE AS OF THE PETITION DATE

Upon the Application (the "Application") of the Debtor for entry of an order (this "Order") authorizing the retention and employment of JORDAN & ORTIZ, P.C. (the "Firm" or "J&O") as co-counsel to the Debtor beginning on the Petition Date (the "Petition Date"), as more fully described in the Application; the Court having reviewed the Application, and the declaration of Shelby A. Jordan, a shareholder of Jordan & Ortiz, P.C., attached to the Application as Exhibit B (the "Jordan Declaration"); and the Court being satisfied, based on the representations made in the Application and the Jordan Declaration that J&O is "disinterested" as such term is defined in Bankruptcy Code section 327(a), and that J&O represents no interest adverse to the Debtor's estate; and the Court having found that this matter is a core proceeding pursuant to U.S.C. 157 and §§ 1334 (b); and the Court having found that this matter is a core proceeding and the Application in this District is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409; and the Court having determined that the relief requested in the Application is in the best interests of the Debtor, its estate, its creditors, and other parties in interest; and it appearing that proper and adequate notice of the

Application has been given and that no other or further notice is necessary; and upon the record herein; and after due deliberation thereon; and good and sufficient cause appearing therefore,

#### IT IS ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED THAT:

- 1. The Application is GRANTED as set forth herein.
- 2. All objections to the entry of this Order, if any and to the extent not withdrawn or settled as reflected in this Order, are overruled.
- 3. Pursuant to Bankruptcy Code section 327(a), Bankruptcy Rules 2014(a) and 2016, and Local Rules 2014-1 and 2016-1, the Debtor is authorized to retain and employ J&O as cocounsel in this Case in accordance with J&O's hourly rates and disbursement policies *nunc pro tunc* to the Petition Date.
- 4. J&O is authorized to render the professional services described in the Application and the Jordan Declaration.
- 5. J&O shall be compensated in accordance with the procedures set forth in Bankruptcy Code sections 328, 330, and 331, and applicable Bankruptcy Rules, and Local Rules, and such other procedures as may be fixed by order of the Court.
- 6. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Application, J&O will not seek reimbursement of expenses for office supplies, any secretarial charges, or other administrative overtime or overhead charges.
- 7. J&O shall apply all amounts being held as a retainer towards fees, costs and expenses that are approved for payment by the Court until the retainer is exhausted prior to seeking reimbursement from the Debtor's estate. At the conclusion of this case or of J&O's engagement by the Debtor during this case, if the amount of any retainer held by J&O is in excess of the amount of J&O's outstanding and Court-approved fees, expenses, and costs, J&O will return the amount to Debtor by which any such retainer exceeds such Court-approved approved fees, expenses, and ORDER GRANTING APPLICATION FOR ENTRY OF AN ORDER AUTHORIZING THE RETENTION AND EMPLOYMENT OF JORDAN & ORTIZ, P.C. AS DEBTOR CO-COUNSEL EFFECTIVE AS OF THE PETITION DATE Page 2

costs.

- 8. Prior to any increase in J&O rates for any individual employed by J&O and providing services in the Case, J&O shall file a supplemental declaration with the Court and provide ten business days' notice to the Debtor, the United States Trustee, Counsel for the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors, Counsel to the Connecticut Plaintiffs, and Counsel to the Texas Plaintiffs.<sup>1</sup> The supplemental declaration shall explain the basis for the requested rate increases in accordance with Bankruptcy Code section 330(a)(3)(F) and state whether the Debtor has consented to the rate increase. The U.S. Trustee retains all rights to object to any rate increase on all grounds, including the reasonableness standard set forth in Bankruptcy Code section 330, and the Court retains the right to review any rate increase pursuant to Bankruptcy Code section 330.
- 9. J&O shall use its best efforts to avoid any duplication of services provided by any of the Debtor's other retained professionals in the Case.
- 10. This Order is without prejudice to J&O filing jointly with co-counsel a Motion for an Order Establishing Procedure for Interim Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses of Retained Professionals similar to the Motion and Order approved in the affiliate case *In re: Free Speech Systems, LLC*, case # 22-60043 [Dkt# 202] which Motion, when filed, will be considered at that time.
- 11. To the extent that J&O uses the services of contract attorneys in this case, J&O (i) shall pass-through the cost of such contract attorneys to the Debtor at the same rate that J&O pays the contract attorneys; (ii) shall seek reimbursement for actual out-of-pocket expenses only; and (iii) shall ensure that the contract attorneys are subject to the same conflict checks and disclosures as required of J&O by Bankruptcy Rule 2014.

ORDER GRANTING APPLICATION FOR ENTRY OF AN ORDER AUTHORIZING THE RETENTION AND EMPLOYMENT OF JORDAN & ORTIZ, P.C. AS DEBTOR CO-COUNSEL EFFECTIVE AS OF THE PETITION DATE – Page 3

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> As such Notice Parties are defined in the *Order Granting Motion for Entry of an Order Establishing Procedures for Interim Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses for Chapter 11 Professionals*.

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12. To the extent the Application, Jordan Declaration, or any engagement letter between the Debtor and J&O is inconsistent with this Order, the terms of this Order shall govern during the

pendency of this chapter 11 case.

13. This Court shall retain jurisdiction over any and all matters arising from the

interpretation, implementation, or enforcement of this Order.

Signed: January 20, 2023

Christopher Lopez

United States Bankruptcy Judge

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United States Bankruptcy Court Southern District of Texas

In re: Case No. 22-33553-cml

Alexander E. Jones Chapter 11

Official Committee Of Unsecured Creditor

**Debtors** 

## CERTIFICATE OF NOTICE

District/off: 0541-4 User: ADIuser Page 1 of 5
Date Rcvd: Jan 20, 2023 Form ID: pdf002 Total Noticed: 11

The following symbols are used throughout this certificate:

Symbol Definition

+ Addresses marked '+' were corrected by inserting the ZIP, adding the last four digits to complete the zip +4, or replacing an incorrect ZIP. USPS

regulations require that automation-compatible mail display the correct ZIP.

# Addresses marked '#' were identified by the USPS National Change of Address system as requiring an update. While the notice was still deliverable,

the notice recipient was advised to update its address with the court immediately.

#### Notice by first class mail was sent to the following persons/entities by the Bankruptcy Noticing Center on Jan 22, 2023:

<b>Recip ID</b> db		Recipient Name and Address Alexander E. Jones, c/o 2525 McKinnon Street, Suite 425, Dallas, TX 75201
cr	+	Francine Wheeler, Cain & Skarnulis PLLC, Ryan E. Chapple, 303 Colorado Street, Suite 2850 Austin, TX 78701-4653
cr	+	Free Speech Systems, LLC, Free Speech Systems, LLC, c/o Patrick Magill, 3019 Alvin Devane Blvd., Ste 300 Austin,, TX 78741-7417
cr	#+	Leonard Pozner, c/o McDowell Hetherington LLP, Attention: Avi Moshenberg, 1001 Fannin Street, Suite 2700 Houston, TX 77002-6774
cr	#+	Marcel Fontaine, c/o McDowell Hetherington LLP, Attention: Avi Moshenberg, 1001 Fannin, Suite 2700 Houston, TX 77002-6774
cr	#+	Neil Heslin, c/o McDowell Hetherington LLP, Attention: Avi Moshenberg, 1001 Fannin Street, Suite 2700 Houston, TX 77002-6774
crcm	+	Official Committee Of Unsecured Creditors, c/o Marty L. Brimmage, Jr., Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP, 2300 N. Field Street, Suite 1800, Dallas, TX 75201-4675
cr	#+	Scarlett Lewis, c/o McDowell Hetherington LLP, Attention: Avi Moshenberg, 1001 Fannin Street, Suite 2700 Houston, TX 77002-6774
cr	+	Travis County, c/o Jason A. Starks, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, TX 78767-1748
cr	#+	Veronique De La Rosa, c/o McDowell Hetherington LLP, Attention: Avi Moshenberg, 1001 Fannin Street, Suite 2700 Houston, TX 77002-6774

TOTAL: 10

#### Notice by electronic transmission was sent to the following persons/entities by the Bankruptcy Noticing Center.

Electronic transmission includes sending notices via email (Email/text and Email/PDF), and electronic data interchange (EDI). Electronic transmission is in Eastern Standard Time.

Recip ID	Notice Type: Email Address	Date/Time	Recipient Name and Address
cr	Email/Text: creditcardbkcorrespondence@bofa.com		
	•	Jan 20 2023 20:11:00	Bank of America N.A., P.O. BOX 31785, Tampa,
			FL 33631-3785

TOTAL: 1

## BYPASSED RECIPIENTS

The following addresses were not sent this bankruptcy notice due to an undeliverable address, \*duplicate of an address listed above, \*P duplicate of a preferred address, or ## out of date forwarding orders with USPS.

Recip ID aty	Bypass Reason	Name and Address Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP
cr		Carlee Soto Parisi
cr		Carlos M Soto
cr		David Wheeler
cr		Donna Soto
cr		Ian Hockley
cr		Jacqueline Barden
cr		Jennifer Hensel
cr		Jillian Soto-Marino
cr		Mark Barden
cr		Nicole Hockley
cr		Robert Parker
cr		William Aldenberg
cr		William Sherlach

TOTAL: 14 Undeliverable, 0 Duplicate, 0 Out of date forwarding address

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## **NOTICE CERTIFICATION**

I, Gustava Winters, declare under the penalty of perjury that I have sent the attached document to the above listed entities in the manner shown, and prepared the Certificate of Notice and that it is true and correct to the best of my information and belief.

Meeting of Creditor Notices only (Official Form 309): Pursuant to Fed .R. Bank. P.2002(a)(1), a notice containing the complete Social Security Number (SSN) of the debtor(s) was furnished to all parties listed. This official court copy contains the redacted SSN as required by the bankruptcy rules and the Judiciary's privacy policies.

Date: Jan 22, 2023	Signature:	/s/Gustava Winters	

# CM/ECF NOTICE OF ELECTRONIC FILING

The following persons/entities were sent notice through the court's CM/ECF electronic mail (Email) system on January 20, 2023 at the address(es) listed below:

below:	
Name	Email Address
Avi Moshenberg	on behalf of Creditor Veronique De La Rosa avi.moshenberg@mhllp.com patricia.flores@mhllp.com
Avi Moshenberg	on behalf of Creditor Neil Heslin avi.moshenberg@mhllp.com patricia.flores@mhllp.com
Avi Moshenberg	on behalf of Creditor Scarlett Lewis avi.moshenberg@mhllp.com patricia.flores@mhllp.com
Avi Moshenberg	on behalf of Creditor Leonard Pozner avi.moshenberg@mhllp.com patricia.flores@mhllp.com
Avi Moshenberg	on behalf of Creditor Marcel Fontaine avi.moshenberg@mhllp.com patricia.flores@mhllp.com
Christina Walton Stephenson	on behalf of Debtor Alexander E. Jones Crissie.Stephenson@crowedunlevy.com elisa.weaver@crowedunlevy.com;ecf@crowedunlevy.com
Elizabeth Carol Freeman	on behalf of Interested Party Melissa A Haselden liz@lizfreemanlaw.com kgradney@jw.com;dtrevino@jw.com;jpupo@jw.com;JacksonWalkerLLP@jubileebk.net
Ha Minh Nguyen	on behalf of U.S. Trustee US Trustee ha.nguyen@usdoj.gov
Jarrod B. Martin	on behalf of Creditor Marcel Fontaine jarrod.martin@chamberlainlaw.com Lara.Coleman@chamberlainlaw.com;atty_jmartin@bluestylus.com;ginger.davis@chamberlainlaw.com
Jarrod B. Martin	on behalf of Creditor Scarlett Lewis jarrod.martin@chamberlainlaw.com Lara.Coleman@chamberlainlaw.com;atty_jmartin@bluestylus.com;ginger.davis@chamberlainlaw.com
Jarrod B. Martin	on behalf of Creditor Neil Heslin jarrod.martin@chamberlainlaw.com Lara.Coleman@chamberlainlaw.com;atty_jmartin@bluestylus.com;ginger.davis@chamberlainlaw.com
Jarrod B. Martin	on behalf of Creditor Leonard Pozner jarrod.martin@chamberlainlaw.com Lara.Coleman@chamberlainlaw.com;atty_jmartin@bluestylus.com;ginger.davis@chamberlainlaw.com
Jarrod B. Martin	on behalf of Creditor Veronique De La Rosa jarrod.martin@chamberlainlaw.com Lara.Coleman@chamberlainlaw.com;atty_jmartin@bluestylus.com;ginger.davis@chamberlainlaw.com
Jason Starks	on behalf of Creditor Travis County bkecf@traviscountytx.gov
Jayson B. Ruff	on behalf of U.S. Trustee US Trustee jayson.b.ruff@usdoj.gov
Marty L Brimmage	on behalf of Creditor Jennifer Hensel mbrimmage@akingump.com

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US Trustee

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Yoshie Valadez

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TOTAL: 80